

Press Release**Issue: May 21st 2015****New Cabinet must create cross-departmental strategy to safeguard the future of 120,000 coming of age millennials, says leading charity**

The publication of today's (21st May) figures of young people not in employment education or training (NEET) in the UK, should act as a powerful reminder to the Conservative Government that a new cross-departmental strategy is essential to help the 120,000 millennial children who are at risk of becoming NEET in the next five years.

Daniela Barone Soares, Chief Executive of Impetus-PEF, a leading charity which focuses on educational and employment outcomes for young, disadvantaged people in the UK comments, "During the Conservatives' second term, one in five (120,888) children born in the Millennium is at risk of not being in employment, education or trainingⁱ. It is essential that the key ministers in this new cabinet work together to deliver a cross-departmental strategy to help disadvantaged school leavers to successfully move forward with their careers. The Department for Education, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills must work together to find workable solutions to the problems affecting young people's progress into sustained employment."

"Currently the responsibility to tackle the issues affecting young people's transition into education, employment and training, falls between the cracks of different Government departments. This is unacceptable given that the UK scores a dismal 20th out of 28 EU member states for levels of youth unemploymentⁱⁱ. The publication of today's figures is a reminder that little is being done to radically transform the school-to-work landscape, with nearly one million young people currently NEET. The time to tackle this problem is now, and help the 120,000 young people who are currently at risk of becoming NEET in the next five years and experiencing a potential loss of earnings of £6.4 billion over their working lives.ⁱⁱⁱ"

After three years of extensive research into the problems and issues surrounding NEETs, with research reports including 'Make NEETS History' and 'Ending the NEET crises for good' and 'Out of Sight', Impetus-PEF has presented a four-stage solution to the Government to help tackle the current conflicting policies, over-complicated sources of funding and fragmented responsibility that continue to hamper progress in this area.

Impetus-PEF believes it is essential to develop a five-year cross-department strategy to help young people navigate their journey from school into further education, employment or training. The strategy should focus on:

- **Improving school-to-work transitions** by ensuring schools in England and Wales are responsible for the post-16 destinations of their pupils and that they will be properly resourced to help ensure every pupil is supported into either education, training or employment.
- **Focusing on higher-quality further education and apprenticeships:** young people who go into further education or apprenticeships are experiencing lower-quality provision than those who go into higher education, with predictable effects on attainment. Public funding continues to prop up poor-quality provision. This money should be refocused on further education and apprenticeships provision that is proven to work.

- **Tailoring job-search services for young people:** there needs to be greater emphasis on careers education in school coupled with more coordinated and focused careers guidance post-education.

- **Incentivising local authorities to make an impact:** there are large variations across local authorities in the proportions of young people who are NEET. While these are inevitably due in some part to different economic conditions, activist local authorities can have an impact, and more must be encouraged to play that role.

By 2020, the Government should be in a position to report that:

- Every school in England and Wales is responsible for the post-16 destinations of their pupils and that they are properly resourced to help ensure every pupil is supported to a destination in education, training or employment.

- Further education providers have significantly improved the rates of learners achieving the qualifications that will help them in the workplace; and two-thirds of all government-funded apprenticeships are now reserved for those aged under 25.

- Every Jobcentre Plus in England and Wales now employs specialist youth advisers, helping young people navigate and secure the traineeships, apprenticeships and skills training they need to eventually find secure employment.

- Every local authority has developed active partnerships of schools and colleges, employers, and the voluntary sector to develop strategies, which are delivering programmes aimed at reducing numbers of local young people NEET.

ENDS

Media Enquiries

Suzi Darsa PR Manager, Impetus-PEF. Tel: 0203 474 1007 Email: press@impetus-pef.org.uk

Notes to the editors

Impetus-PEF is a charity that transforms the lives of disadvantaged young people by ensuring they get the support they need to succeed in education, training and employment. It currently works with over 20 promising youth charities and social enterprises and provides them with a combination of long-term funding and sustained strategic advice. This pioneering approach enables its partner charities to reach their full potential, in turn enabling them to reach more disadvantaged young people. For more information on Impetus-PEF please visit www.impetus-pef.org.uk or call 020 3474 1007.

ⁱ Impetus-PEF, Make NEETS History in 2014 Report, page p6. January 2014
<http://www.impetus-pef.org.uk/campaigns-and-research/research/make-neets-history/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.statista.com/statistics/266228/youth-unemployment-rate-in-eu-countries/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Impetus-PEF, Make NEETS History in 2014 Report, page 10-11; January 2014.
<http://impetuspef.org.uk/policy-initiatives/make-neets-history/>